

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NAC MEETING JULY 31: FUTURE TRENDS IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS:
REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF APAG

REF: A) STATE 152042; B) STATE 162905

BEGIN SUMMARY: ALL NAC MEMBERS WHO SPOKE ON CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON JUNE 5 TO 7 APAG MEETING (FUTURE TRENDS IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS) STRONGLY COMPLIMENTED CHAIRMAN AND APAG. US REP DREW ATTENTION TO STATEMENT IN COVER NOTE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING HIGH LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION

AT APAG MEETINGS. NAC TOOK NOTE OF CHAIRMAN'S REPORT BUT DEFERRED FINAL DECISIONS ON RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUBJECT OF NEXT MEETING DUE TO SHORT TIME IN WHICH CAPITALS HAVE HAD REPORT. END SUMMARY

1. NAC ON JULY 31 CONSIDERED CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON JUNE 5 TO 7 MEETING OF ATLANTIC POLICY ADVISORY GROUP: "FUTURE TRENDS IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS" (C-M(74)47).

2. SVART (DENMARK) COMPLIMENTED THE CHAIRMAN AND APAG FOR THEIR WORK. HE FOUND PARTICULARLY INTERESTING THE POINT IN PARA 10 AND PARA 12 VII OF MAIN BODY OF REPORT, I.E. THAT THE COURSE OF DETENTE WOULD BE GOVERNED MAINLY BY SOVIET CALCULATION OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS

HE NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT EASY FOR ANYONE TO INFLUENCE THE SOVIET
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UNION AND THE REPORT BROUGHT THIS OUT CLEARLY. THE REPORT ALSO BROUGHT OUT WHERE WE CAN INFLUENCE THE SOVIETS, E.G. PARA 12 III ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING UP A NETWORK OF MUTUAL INTERESTS. SVART ALSO NOTED STATEMENT IN PARA 3 THAT SOVIETS REGARD DETENTE AS

A TOOL OR A POLICY, AND NOT A GOAL. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS WORTH KEEPING IN MIND AND ONE OF OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE TO CHANGE THIS.

3. BUWALDA (NETHERLANDS) UNDERLINED EXCELLENCE OF THIS APAG REPORT. THE ONLY CONSIDERATION HE THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN OMITTED WAS SOMETHING ON ROLE OF IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS IN SOVIET UNION. SELMER (NORWAY) ALSO COMPLIMENTED THE REPORT AND SAID HE DID NOT THINK APAG SHOULD AGAIN GO 18 MONTHS WITHOUT MEETING.

4. GOODBY (US) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED CHAIRMAN'S REPORT A MASTERFUL SUMMATION OF APAG DISCUSSIONS. HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE STATEMENT IN THE COVER NOTE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A HIGH LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION AT APAG MEETINGS. REGARDING PROCEDURE, HE ASKED IF THE EXCHANGE OF PAPERS REFERRED TO IN THE COVER NOTE WOULD TAKE PLACE THROUGH NATO HEADQUARTERS, AND PANSA (ACTING SYG) CONFIRMED THAT IT WOULD.

5. CARRAUD (FRANCE) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED THE APAG MEETING TO HAVE BEEN VERY LIVELY AND WELL-ORIENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN. THE CHARACTERISTIC OF APAG WAS THAT EVERYONE EXPRESSES HIMSELF FREELY. HOWEVER, THE REPORT GIVES AN IMPRESSION OF CONSENSUS. MAYBE THE NEXT TIME THE REPORT SHOULD TRY TO IDENTIFY WHATEVER DIVERGENCIES MIGHT EXIST. REGARDING THE SUGGESTED TOPIC (NATURAL RESOURCES) FOR THE NEXT MEETING, HE WANTED TO RESERVE SOME FLEXIBILITY FOR MODIFYING IT IN LIGHT OF THE PREOCCUPATIONS WHICH MIGHT EXIST AT THAT TIME.

6. BOSS (GERMANY) RECALLED SVART'S POINT THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDERED DETENTE A TOOL OR POLICY. HE SAID THE FRG ALSO CONSIDERED DETENTE A POLICY, TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. HE WOULD AGREE THAT DETENTE WAS NOT A GOAL.

7. CATALANO (ITALY) JOINED IN COMPLIMENTING THE REPORT, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARED ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA WITH INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR ITALY TO CONSIDER IT. VAN ROEY (BELGIUM, LIKE CARRAUD, HOPED THAT THE SUBJECT COULD BE ADJUSTED ACCORDING TO EVENTS, AND THAT THE COUNCIL COULD POSSIBLY LOOK AT IT AGAIN. SHEFFIELD (CANADA)
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SAID HIS AUTHORITIES THOUGHT THE PROPOSED SUBJECT SHOULD REFERE TO "THE ROLE" (OR SOME OTHER WORDS) OF NATURAL RESOURCES, RATHER THAN "THE PROBLEM".

8. KASTL (APAG CHAIRMAN) WITH RESPECT TO CARRAUD'S REMARKS, THOUGHT THE LAST APAG MEETING REFLECTED AN UNUSUAL DEGREE OF COMMUNITY WITH ONLY SHADES OF DISAGREEMENT. HE THOUGHT THAT THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SHOULD NOT IDENTIFY DIVERGENT VIEWS, SINCE THIS WOULD INFRINGE ON THE OPENNESS AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE TALKS.

9. PANSA, IN SUMMING UP THE DISCUSSION, SAID THAT THE NAC HAD TAKEN NOTE OF THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, BUT IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION IN CAPITALS, WOULD PUT OFF DECISIONS

ON RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE NEXT SUBJECT TO A LATER DATE. SPC
WOULD CONSIDER PLACE OF NEXT MEETING. GOODBY

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